

TOWN OF ARLINGTON

Joseph Connelly
Director of Recreation



PARK COMMISSIONERS
Jen Rothenberg, Chairperson
Shirley Canniff, Vice Chair
Leslie Mayer
Donald Vitters
Elena Bartholomew
Crissy Tarantino, Associate
Peter Hedlund, Associate

Recreation Department

Park and Recreation Commission
April 12, 2016
Approved

The Park and Recreation Commission came to order at 7:00pm for its meeting in the Senior Center on Tuesday, April 12, 2016.

Members in attendance included: Jen Rothenberg, Leslie Mayer, Don Vitters, Elena Bartholomew and Associate Members Chrissy Tarantino and Peter Hedlund. Director of Recreation Joseph Connelly was also present.

Members from the public: Carlos Nieto from Berkshire Associates was also present.

Approval of Minutes – The Commission reviewed the minutes of March 8, 2016 and March 22, 2016. Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the March 22, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0. Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the March 8, 2016 minutes as amended, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 4-0.

Open Forum – N/A

ADA Improvement Design Review

Mr. Nieto of Berkshire Associates reviewed the plans for ADA upgrades of Locke Playground, Cutter Playground, Florence Field, Buck/Hills Hill Field and North Union Field.

The Commission reviewed each of these areas with Mr. Nieto and discussed the recommended changes and needed modifications. The Commission discussed the difficult access from the street at both Locke Playground and Cutter Playground. The Commission asked Mr. Nieto to show accessible parking at these locations, including North Union Field and Florence Field so that recommendations could be sent to the Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Commission discussed the available project budget. Mr. Connelly stated that there was roughly \$150,000 available in funding which did include the design work. Mr. Connelly also stated that another \$50,000 should be available in FY 17 if the capital plan was approved. The Commission discussed the timing of the project. Mr. Connelly suggested having the RFP ready for bidding in January in order to try to solicit the best possible pricing.

Mr. Connelly will ask Berkshire to amend the plans as discussed and to draft a revised budget focusing on phase one of the project to include Florence, North Union and Buck/Hills Hill.

422 Summer Street, Arlington, Massachusetts 02474
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Special Requests

A – Batting Cage at Summer Street Field

Mr. Ahern of Arlington Babe Ruth and Mr. Chris Hall of Arlington Catholic baseball reviewed their request to leave the batting cage posts up year round and just remove the netting on a seasonal basis. Mr. Ahern stated this would save the club roughly \$1,000 a year. The Commission discussed the issue of permanent installation verse temporary and the need for accessibility.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to allow Babe Ruth to leave the frame of the structure up year round but to not install the netting prior to April 1st and remove the netting by October 15th each year. The motion was seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

B – Cecily Miller – Arlington Public Art

Ms. Miller reviewed both of her public art event requests. The first request was for a one day exhibit of a life size chess set at Spy Pond Park and the other was for the temporary display of foxes to promote the Fox Family Day at the Fox Library on June 18th.

Ms. Miller said that the “Playful” event would be held on either May 14 or May 21st and would also include a couple of tables for art projects for children. Projects would be simple and would involve supplies such as crayons and glue sticks.

Ms. Miller discussed the time frame of the “Fox Family” display being from May 21st to June 18th. Mr. Connelly discussed the desire to have Ms. Miller complete the Arlington Public Art guideline and request form as a matter of proper procedure. Ms. Miller has completed the form and was just waiting for the address of the artist before submitting.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the “Playful” event with the life size chess set on either May 14th or May 21st. Mr. Vitters seconded the motion and it was approved 4-0.

Ms. Mayer motioned to approve the temporary art installation titled “Fox Family” from May 21st to be taken down no later than June 30th, pending final approval from the Arlington Public Arts Committee. Ms. Bartholomew seconded the motion and approved 4-0.

C –AHD Temporary Fence for Spy Pond Field

Mr. Connelly reviewed the annual request form AHS to install temporary outfield fencing at Spy Pond. Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the request as long as the temporary fence is removed at the end of the 2016 AHS season, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

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D – Friends of Robbins Farm

Mr. Connelly reviewed the annual request from the Friends of Robbins Farm Park (FORFP). Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the events on 4/30, 7/4, 10/22 and 11/5 with the same condition as last year, with notice given that next year during construction these events would not be allowed to take place at their current locations. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 4-0. Ms. Mayer asked that in future years more information be required for the bulb planting.

Recreation Topic Areas

Capital Improvements

- Mr. Connelly discussed the potential Summer Street Infield and Backstop, Buck Field Outfield Fencing and Parallel Park Basketball court improvements.
- Mr. Connelly stated that the bids for the Magnolia Park project were due on Thursday, April 14th and that several bidders were interested.
- CPA - Ms. Mayer stated that CPA Committee did approve the Robbins Farm project funding and it was recommended for approval by the Finance Committee and it would ultimately be voted on by Town Meeting. If approved, the money will be available July 1, 2016.

Off Leash Park and Program

Mr. Connelly reviewed the new reporting program and the introductory letter with the Commission. Ms. Mayer asked that when this information is sent out that the annual reminders about the off leash rules and picking up after your dog are also included. Ms. Bartholomew motioned to approve the reporting mechanism and the introductory letter, seconded by Mr. Vitters and approved 4-0.

DPW Liaison Request for Pathway Repair at McLennen Park

Mr. Connelly reviewed the request from the Engineering Department to repair sections of pathways at McLennen Park using asphalt in place of stonedust aggregate. The Commission discussed this request. The Commission understood the reason for the necessary repair but asked that it be noted that the use of asphalt for this repair was not a general acceptance of asphalt as the standard pathway material in all of our parks.

Ms. Bartholomew motioned to adjourn at 9:30 pm, seconded by Ms. Mayer and approved 4-0.

Submitted by: Joseph Connelly

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 10, 2016

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